

VOTE NOTES

Fairfax County Election Officer News

SPRING 2012



Mandatory Election Officer Training in 2012

The 2010 General Assembly passed legislation that requires localities to train all election officers every four years. In addition, the State Board of Elections has developed training standards for the content of this training. To comply with these mandates, we have created several classes for new and experienced officers. All officers must attend **one** of the following classes during the 2012 calendar year. All of the classes will include electronic pollbook training.

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|--------|--|
| EO 101 | New officers who have never served |
| EO 102 | Refresher training for experienced officers |
| C 101 | First time Chiefs and Assistant Chiefs |
| C 102 | Refresher training for experienced Chiefs and Assistant Chiefs |

Chiefs and Assistant Chiefs must continue to attend their mandatory, election-specific training the week prior to each election to pick up the precinct kits and other supplies. Prior to the November election, we anticipate holding workshops covering Statement of Results, Voting Machines, and Electronic Pollbooks.

Advanced registration is required for all classes and workshops. Space is limited to provide hands-on training. Prompt registration is encouraged to secure a specific date or time. **The schedule of classes can be found on the website at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections**

The first phase of training was held in late February in anticipation of the March Primary. Over 200 election officers and 150 Chief and Assistant Chief officers were trained. We are currently in phase two of training; and phase three will be held in the fall in preparation for November.

ELECTION CALENDAR

Please mark your calendars with the following 2012 dates:

Party Primaries, June 12, 2012
Presidential Election, November 6, 2012

ON THE BALLOT IN NOVEMBER

U.S. President/Vice-President
U.S. Senate
U.S. House of Representatives
Two Constitutional Amendments
Four County Bond Issues

ELECTION FEEDBACK

As we anticipate the upcoming 2012 elections, the following information was compiled from the most common feedback as reported in chief notes and the comment sheets submitted by voters. We hope this information will help as you prepare for the June and November elections.

ID Requirements: Most acceptable forms of identification for regular (non-HAVA) voters do not require a photo. Carefully review Problem 1 in the *What If's* for identification requirements. **After July 1, new legislation will require all voters to submit an acceptable form of identification in order to vote a regular ballot.** The next issue of Vote Notes will carry an update on this important legislation. Please note that all elections this year will be Federal elections subject to HAVA requirements.

Provisional Ballots: **ALWAYS** contact the Registrar's Office prior to issuing a provisional ballot and refer to Problem 12 in the *What If's* for step-by-step instructions. Do require appropriate identification, but do NOT mark provisional voters in the pollbooks. A provisional voter MUST be given the green notice of the Electoral Board meeting and a voter registration application. Remember to complete the green Provisional Ballot Log with the voter's name and the reason for issuing the provisional ballot. Election officers must carefully review both sides of the green provisional ballot envelope for completion and then sign it.

In order to ensure these steps are followed, and in preparation for compliance with the new ID requirements to take effect on July 1, a written checklist will be required. Beginning with the June primary, the Chief must complete this checklist for each provisional voter, attach it to the green provisional ballot envelope and then place it in Envelope 1A. This procedure will be covered in greater detail at the June pre-election Chief and Assistant Chief meetings.

Fleeing Voters: If a voter "flees" without casting the ballot, it must be cancelled, creating a discrepancy between the pollbooks and the voting machine totals. So, if a voter chooses the Touch Screen machine, please remind the voter to press the flashing VOTE button after making all desired selections. The machine will then "thank" them for voting. Once the voter steps away from the booth, the election officer must check the screen to make sure the voter completed this final step. If the election officer performs this step immediately after each voter finishes, the voter usually can be called back to cast the ballot if he/she failed to press the Vote button. This procedure is often overlooked.

Statement of Results: In order to provide an accurate machine count, it is critical that all machine tapes be accounted for and properly added together on Line B8 of the SOR. Line B8 includes the totals from all the Touch Screen machines, as well as the Optical Scan machine. Beginning with the June primary, the Office will be piloting the use of different colored tapes for each voting machine in the precinct. Hopefully this visual aid will lessen the confusion over creating the machine tape attachments for the SORs. Please feel free to provide comments on this new procedure in the Chief's Notebook.

Please remember, the Chief and Assistant Chief, as well as all election officers who are present at the closing of the polls, **MUST** sign the SOR, both the original and the copy.

40-foot Restricted Area: Unless an exception has been granted by the Electoral Board, the 40-ft area applies to ALL entrances to the polling place building. Please regularly monitor these areas. Va. Code § 24.2-604(A) prohibits the "hindering or delaying of a qualified voter or an election officer in entering or leaving the polling place when the polls are open and ballots are being counted." Va. Code § 24.2-607 (B) states "No person shall conduct himself in a noisy or riotous manner at or about the polls so as to disturb the election or insult or abuse an officer of election."

Signs: Due to budget constraints, most election signs are recycled and used again in subsequent elections. This cannot be done if the signs are defaced with excess tape. All tape must be removed from the signs before they are placed in the blue bag and returned with the other materials.

Changes in Voter Information: If a voter requests that a change be made to their personal information (name changes, misspellings, change of address, etc.), they MUST fill out a new voter registration application *in its entirety*. Submit in Envelope 8.

SPANISH LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

As many of you noticed in the November 8, 2011, General Election and the March 6, 2012, Presidential Primary Election, Fairfax County is now providing election materials in Spanish, as well as English. On October 13, 2011, the Director of the Census determined that Fairfax County is now subject to the minority language assistance provisions under Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act.

Section 203, originally passed in 1975, expands voting rights for groups that Congress found to have faced barriers in the political process. Covered language minorities are limited to American Indians, Asian Americans, Alaska Natives, and Spanish-heritage citizens. As the first jurisdiction in Virginia's history covered under Section 203, Fairfax County is only required to provide language assistance in Spanish. To ensure compliance with the new federal requirements, the Fairfax County Electoral Board must provide "registration or voting notice forms, instructions, assistance, or other materials of information relating to the electoral process" in Spanish. Additional efforts are underway to assign sufficient bilingual Election Officers at precincts where assistance is most needed. Language Line services are provided at all precincts on election days.

Unless required by the Federal Government in 2016, the Fairfax County Electoral Board will decide if any additional languages will be supported. At this point, the Electoral Board has indicated the office should focus on compliance with the Spanish requirements before considering any further changes in this regard.

The Office will be reaching out to local groups and individuals to assist in outreach efforts to the Spanish language community. Election Officers, especially bilingual officers, who would like to volunteer should contact Pat Ferguson, 703-324-4736 or Norma Rengel, 703-324-4731.

CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING AND NEW VOTER CARDS

Congressional redistricting is based upon the decennial census data and by law must be completed every 10 years. Virginia congressional redistricting was approved and went into effect in March 2012. Virginia State Senate and House of Delegates, as well as local redistricting, went into effect in 2011.

The State Board of Elections mailed new voter cards to approximately 195,000 Fairfax County voters affected by these congressional district changes. The voter card is the notice of the new district. New voter cards were also mailed to those who hold a voter information card that includes their Social Security Number (SSN), replacing the SSN with the Voter ID number. To comply with Section 203, all new voter cards will indicate a language preference.

Voters who would like to check their voter registration status and information can visit the Virginia State Board of Elections website www.sbe.virginia.gov or click [here](#).

OFFICE OF ELECTIONS NEWS

The Office of Elections is thrilled to introduce a number of new staff members including Jane Hong, Election Officer Coordinator and Travis Potter, Training and Election Officer Coordinator. Jane and Travis will be working together with our seasonal employees to staff, assign, and train all Election Officers.

In 2007 Jane began working for the Fairfax County Park Authority and transferred to the Department of Tax Administration. She accepted a seasonal position with the Office of Elections in 2011 prior to accepting the position as Election Officer Coordinator. Jane earned a degree in foreign affairs from the University of Virginia.

Travis recently came to us from the Anne Arundel County Board of Elections where he served as an Election Specialist. Travis has previously served as an Assistant for a Washington-based Political Action Committee and has worked for the U.S. House of Representatives and Social Security Administration. He received a degree in Political Science and Sociology from the University of Maryland—Baltimore County.

Luke Baranyk was appointed Voting Machine Coordinator in August 2011. He oversees all voting equipment, the Technical Support Center on election days, and public and private facilities used as polling locations. Luke has been a county employee since 2009 and has worked in the Department of Finance and Department of Tax Administration. He received a degree in Business Administration and German from the University of Mary Washington.

On March 1, Carol Ann Coryell was reappointed to the Fairfax County Electoral Board for a new three-year term. The Board held its annual organizational meeting on March 7, 2012 and reappointed Seth Stark as Chairman, Hans von Spakovsky as Vice Chairman, and Carol Ann Coryell as Secretary. They will serve in this capacity until February 28, 2013.

Cameron Quinn was sworn in as Fairfax County's General Registrar in September 2011. Ms. Quinn previously was the Secretary of the Virginia State Board of Elections, the chief state election official for the Commonwealth. Her responsibilities included oversight of election officials in 134 localities and more than 15,000 Election Day polling place officials.

Ms. Quinn was a member of Virginia's 2011 Independent Bipartisan Advisory Commission on Redistricting. She also served as the U.S. elections advisor for the International Foundation for Electoral Systems and as senior elections policy advisor to the Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights at the U.S. Department of Justice. She was an academic advisor to the Commission on Federal Election Reform in 2005 (the Carter-Baker Commission).

Ms. Quinn earned a law degree and a master's degree from the University of Virginia and a bachelor's degree in marketing from the University of Florida.

Suzanne Burkholder was recently appointed as the Assistant Registrar for Absentee Voting. She began working in the Office in 2011. Suzanne served in the Army for eight years and was stationed in Georgia, Iraq, Kuwait, and Alaska.

She holds a bachelor's degree in Computer Engineering at Villanova University and is currently working on her master's degree in Administration of Justice and Security.

OFFICE OF ELECTIONS NEWS

Congratulations! Today is your day! You're off to great places! You're off and away!

After ten years of service with Fairfax County, Lougenia Carnell, Executive Assistant to the General Registrar, retired on March 12, 2012.

With thirty years of service, Edie Brown, Voter Registration, retired on April 30, 2012.

Karla Mahoney, who served as the Outreach Coordinator for Voter Registration, is retiring on June 19 after eighteen years of employment with Fairfax County.

We wish them all the very best as they enter this new and exciting time of their lives.

Please submit Election Officer Oath for 2012-2014!

For each two-year term of appointment, all Election Officers are required by law to take and sign the oath of office to support the Constitutions of the United States and the Commonwealth of Virginia. **By law, your notarized oath must be on file with the Electoral Board before an assignment is made.**

The oath may be administered by a member of the Electoral Board, the General Registrar, an Assistant Registrar or a Notary. Notaries are available at our office and the following County locations, and may be available through your financial institution. The following County offices request that you call in advance for an appointment:

Braddock District Office	703-425-9300
Mason District Office	703-256-7717
Mount Vernon Governmental Center	703-780-7518
Providence District Office	703-560-6946

If you are unable to locate the Oath mailed to you in January, you may download one from our website at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/working.htm>

New Web Address

Please note that we have changed our web address to:

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections

There will be an automatic redirect to the new address through November. Beginning in December you will receive an error message if you try to access the old web address.



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12000 Government Center Parkway
Suite 323
Fairfax, VA 22035



To request reasonable ADA accommodations,
call the Office of Elections at
703-324-4735 Fax: 703-324-4706
General Registrar 703-222-0776
TTY: 711 (Virginia Relay)
E-mail: elect@fairfaxcounty.gov